Bifurcation of J & K

378. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the "Times of India" dated the 15th June, 2000 under the caption "Farooq is opposed to bifurcation";

(b) whether he has ever made any suggestion for bifurcation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir as one of the ideas that could be considered during talks for finding a solution of the problem; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO); (a) Government is aware of the media reports.

(b) and (c) No such suggestion has been made by the State Government.

Amendments in the Human Rights Act, 1993

379. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to amend the Human Rights Act, 1993 is pending with Government; if so, since when and the details of the amendments proposed; and

(b) by when the said Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) National Human Rights Commission has sent a proposal on 7.3.2000 suggesting amendments in various sections of the Protection *of* Human Rights Act, 1993. The proposed amendments relate to structure, powers of the commission, constitution of State Human Rights Commission, transfer of complaints/inquiries to State Commission etc.

The proposal received from the Commission is being examined by the Government. As the proposal would require inter-action with various Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government and State Governments, no specific time frame can be indicated.